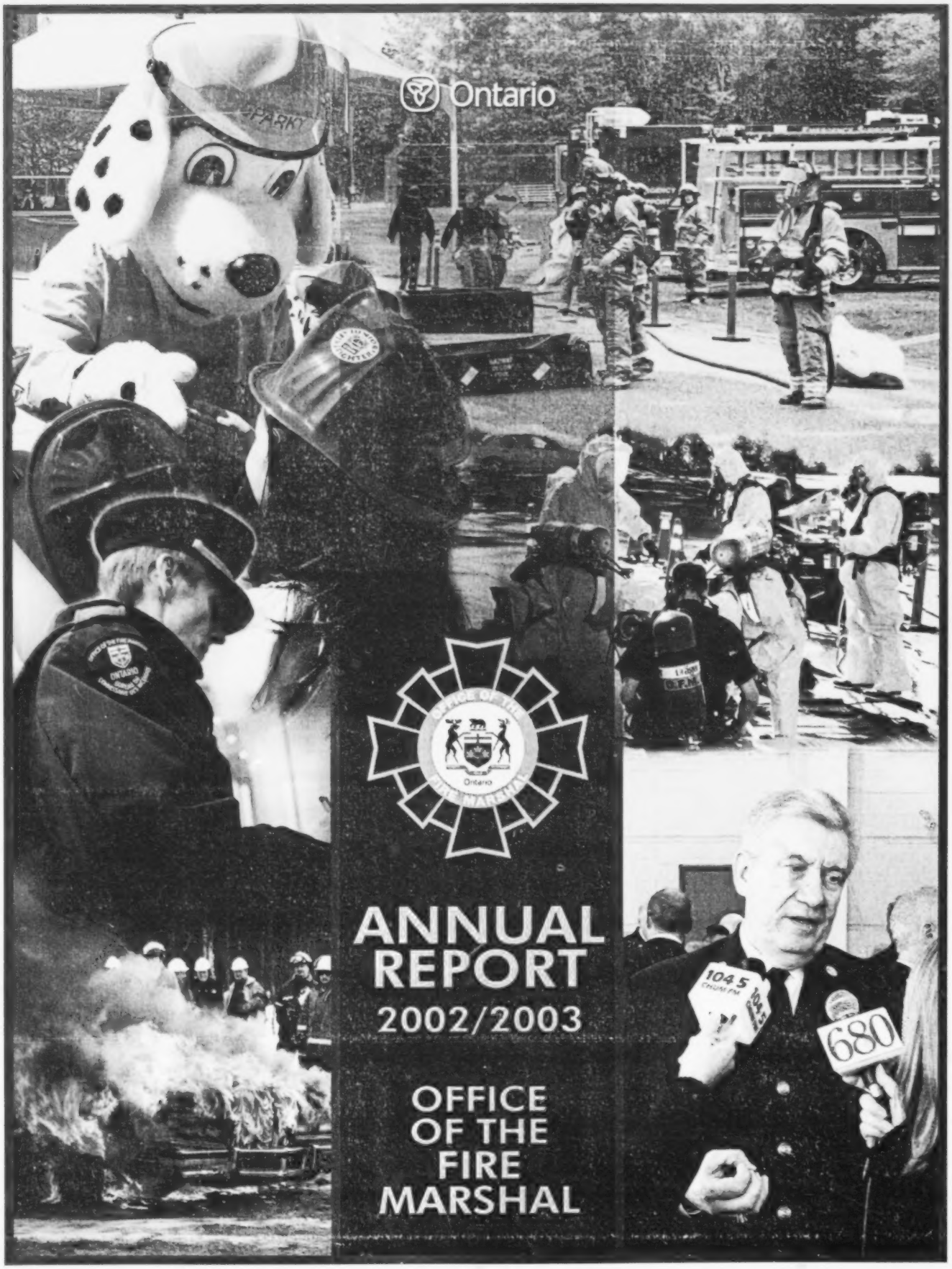

ANNUAL REPORT 2002/2003

OFFICE OF THE FIRE MARSHAL

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SPARKY THE FIRE SAFETY MOOSE DONATED TO THE ONTARIO FIRE COLLEGE

DEMONSTRATION OF A TYPICAL FATAL FIRE SCENARIO AT THE 2002 REMEMBER DECEMBER MEDIA EVENT

2002 MARKS THE [illegible] ANNIVERSARY OF THE OFM'S JOURNAL FOR THE ONTARIO FIRE SERVICE THAT OFFERS MATERIAL ON TRAINING, EDUCATION, FIRE PREVENTION, AND FIRE SAFETY IN ONTARIO

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105-02917/

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

June 2004

Honourable Monte Kwinter
Minister of Community Safety and
Correctional Services
25 Grosvenor Street
Toronto ON M7A 1Y6

Dear Mr. Kwinter:

I am pleased to present the annual report of the Office of the Fire Marshal for the period of April 1, 2002 to March 31, 2003. The report outlines significant accomplishments, activities, and initiatives.

Early on, the Office of the Fire Marshal set as its goal and raison d'être "making Ontario a safer place from fire". Accordingly, priority has been given to reducing fire losses and the number of fire fatalities in Ontario.

In the past ten years, these efforts have focused on legislative reform, fire prevention, public education, and fire service training. The Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997 expanded the role of the Fire Marshal, redefined the role of municipalities with regard to fire protection services, and required municipalities to establish a program that includes public education with respect to fire safety and certain components of fire prevention. The Office of the Fire Marshal has worked arduously to provide municipalities with the support, programs, and tools they require to fulfill their obligations and meet the needs of their communities.

This year's activities and achievements covered a broad range of areas and topics including emergency management, counterterrorism, performance measurement and benchmarking, firefighter training and certification, fire protection services monitoring, and issuance of certificates of compliance.

The Office of the Fire Marshal and the fire service's hard work and dedication have paid off. Fire fatalities and structure fires have been on a steady decline in Ontario. In 2002, the fire death rate was at a record low in the history of Ontario.

While many factors may explain the decline, including increased public awareness, the Office of the Fire Marshal and the fire service must not only continue to build on past achievements but also set new objectives to get nearer to their goal. To this end, the Office of the Fire Marshal will be developing a strategic plan in consultation with stakeholders to chart its course for the next decade.

I thank the fire service for their commitment to public fire and life safety, the tremendous support it has given to my office, and the co-operation it has shown by working as partners in various endeavours.

The Office of the Fire Marshal appreciates the continuing support of the Ontario government in our efforts of reducing Ontario's fire losses.

Finally, I wish to express my gratitude to all staff of the Office of the Fire Marshal for their hard work in challenging times and their continuing efforts to serve the people of Ontario and contribute to their fire safety.

Sincerely,

Bernard A. Moyle
Fire Marshal of Ontario

ORGANIZATIONAL PROFILE

The Fire Marshal acts as the principal adviser to government on public fire protection policy and fire safety issues, and provides leadership, advice, guidance, and assistance to municipalities and the Ontario fire service in matters relating to public fire safety.

DECEMBER MEDIA EVENT

MISSION

TO CONTRIBUTE TO AN ENVIRONMENT FOR THE RESIDENTS OF ONTARIO THAT IS SAFE FROM FIRE AND OTHER PUBLIC SAFETY HAZARDS BY PROVIDING LEADERSHIP AND EXPERTISE IN THE REDUCTION AND ELIMINATION OF THESE HAZARDS

VALUES

VALUES THAT GUIDE THE OFM IN ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH EMPLOYEES AND CLIENT GROUPS ARE:

- CO-OPERATION AND PARTICIPATION
- PARTNERSHIPS
- LEARNING
- PROFESSIONALISM
- OPENNESS IN COMMUNICATIONS
- HONESTY, INTEGRITY AND FAIRNESS
- EFFORT AND ACHIEVEMENT
- INNOVATION AND CREATIVITY
- QUALITY SERVICE
- TEAM APPROACH
- PLANNED GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENTAL OPPORTUNITIES
- DIVERSITY

ROLE AND MANDATE

THE MANDATE OF THE OFM IS TO MINIMIZE THE IMPACT OF FIRE AND OTHER PUBLIC SAFETY HAZARDS AND THEIR EFFECTS ON PEOPLE, PROPERTY AND THE ENVIRONMENT. RECOGNIZED AS A FOREMOST CENTRE OF KNOWLEDGE IN FIRE AND OTHER PUBLIC SAFETY MATTERS, THE OFM FULFILLS ITS MISSION BY USING AN INTEGRATED MULTI-DISCIPLINARY APPROACH. THE OFM SERVES AS THE GOVERNMENT'S ADVISER ON PUBLIC FIRE SAFETY AND POLICY, AND PROVIDES LEADERSHIP, EDUCATION, AND EXPERTISE THROUGH A VARIETY OF PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES THAT INCLUDE:

- ADVISING ON POLICY
- CREATING PARTNERSHIPS
- DESIGNING PUBLIC EDUCATION AND FIRE PREVENTION PROGRAMS
- INVESTIGATING FIRES
- MONITORING FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES
- IMPLEMENTING POLICY
- PARTICIPATING IN RESEARCH
- OFFERING SUPPORT
- ACTING AS A CATALYST
- INFLUENCING LEGISLATION

PRINCIPLES

PRINCIPLES THAT GUIDE THE OFM ARE:

- COMMITTING TO EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES
- UTILIZING AN INTEGRATED APPROACH TO OUR PLANNING PROCESS
- FOCUSING ON HIGH-IMPACT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES
- ENSURING THAT OUR RESPONSE TO EXTERNAL EVENTS WILL BE IN PROPORTION TO THE OVERALL GOALS AND PRIORITIES OF THE OFM
- ENCOURAGING AND SUPPORTING BOTH VIABILITY AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY FOR OUR CLIENTS
- ESTABLISHING MEASURES OF PROGRAM IMPACT
- CREATING A LEARNING ENVIRONMENT
- OPERATING AS AN OPEN AND INTEGRATED SYSTEM
- CONTRIBUTING TO CREATING A SAFE WORK ENVIRONMENT FOR THE FIRE SERVICE
- RECOGNIZING THE SPECIAL NEEDS OF THE VOLUNTEER FIRE SERVICE

GOALS

THE GOALS OF THE OFM HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED IN KEEPING WITH THE OFM MISSION, ROLE, AND MANDATE. THEY ARE EVALUATED AND REVISED REGULARLY TO ENSURE CONSISTENCY WITH THE MINISTRY BUSINESS PLAN. THE ANNUAL WORK PLAN IDENTIFIES PRIORITIES RELATED TO THE FOLLOWING GOALS. THE OFM WILL:

- ENSURE THAT THERE IS AN OPEN AND FLEXIBLE TRAINING AND EDUCATION SYSTEM TO ALLOW THE FIRE SERVICE TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE PUBLIC
- ENSURE THAT THE OFM RESOURCES FOCUS ON PROGRAMS WHICH HAVE THE HIGHEST POTENTIAL IN ACHIEVING THE MISSION
- PROVIDE INCREASED OPPORTUNITIES FOR EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT DELIVERY OF FIRE SERVICES
- ENHANCE THE CAPACITY OF THE OFM TO CONDUCT ENVIRONMENTAL SCANNING, NETWORKING, AND RESEARCH IN ORDER TO PROVIDE TIMELY AND APPROPRIATE RESPONSES
- ENHANCE THE PERCEPTION OF THE OFM'S LEADERSHIP ROLE IN IMPROVING PUBLIC SAFETY
- FOSTER AN ENVIRONMENT THAT ASSISTS STAFF TO ACQUIRE AND ENHANCE SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE TO MEET THE EVOLVING NEEDS THAT WILL FULFILL THE MISSION
- CREATE AN ADAPTABLE ORGANIZATION WHICH STRATEGICALLY POSITIONS ITS STAFF TO ENSURE DELIVERY OF OFM PROGRAMS IN A TIMELY, EFFICIENT, AND EFFECTIVE MANNER

ADVANCED FIRE CAUSE DETERMINATION & INVESTIGATION COURSE

The Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM) is responsible for administering the Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997 (FPPA), which promotes fire prevention and public safety in Ontario, and the Ontario Fire Code, a regulation made under the act that contains comprehensive fire safety requirements applicable to all buildings and premises in the province.

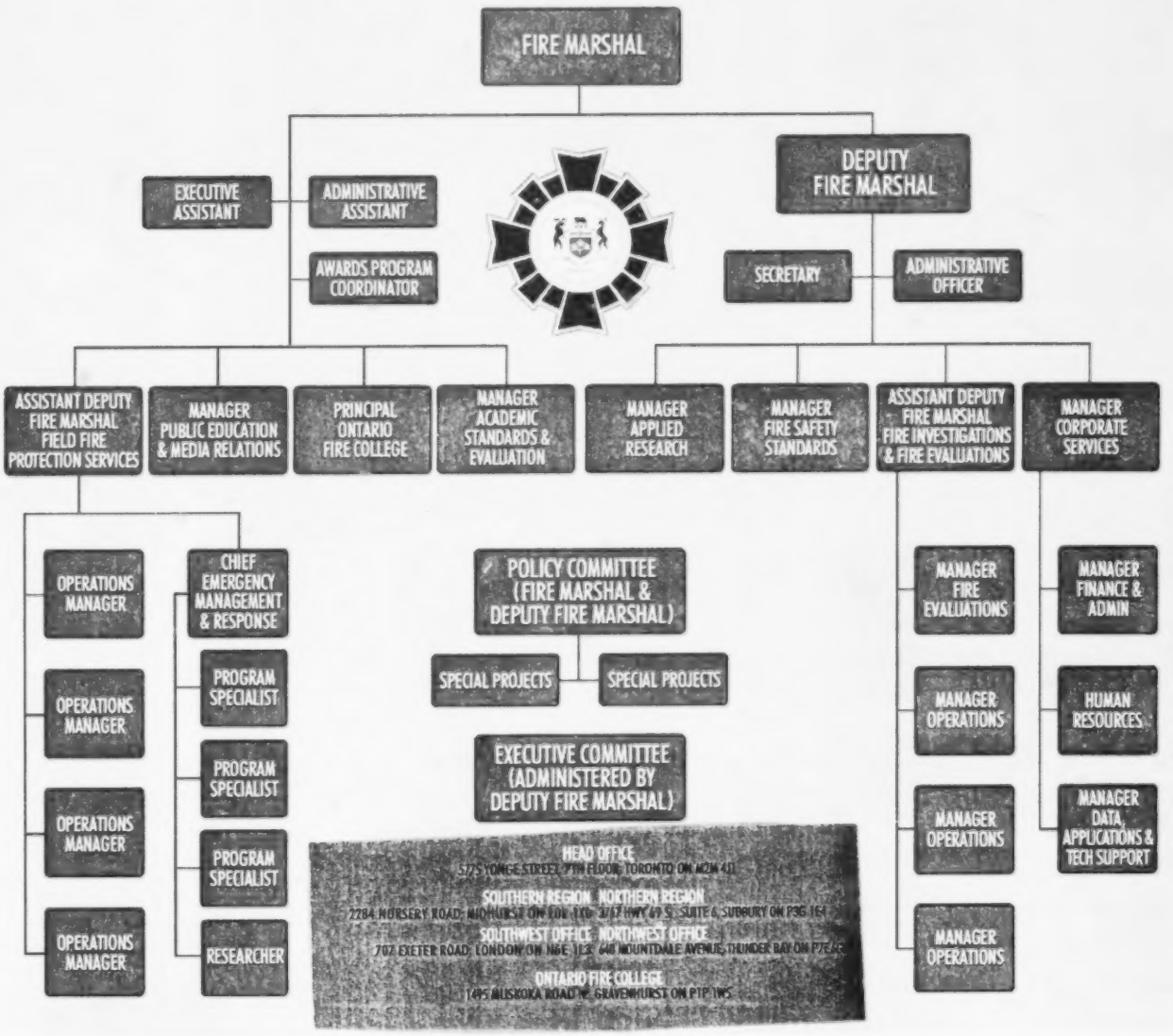
The FPPA grants the Fire Marshal authority to review and monitor fire protection services and take action to resolve fire-related threats to public safety.

The FPPA also legislates the operation of the Fire Marshal's Public Fire Safety Council—a diverse group of organizations, associations, and individuals working voluntarily to promote fire prevention and public education in Ontario with the technical and administrative assistance of the Office of the Fire Marshal.

The OFM develops and delivers academic and training programs to enhance and promote fire prevention, public education, firefighter safety, and fire protection for the Ontario fire service through the Ontario Fire College as well as other fire protection and support programs at the local level.

For a more comprehensive description of the OFM and its responsibilities, visit the Web site: www.ofm.gov.on.ca.

STRUCTURE



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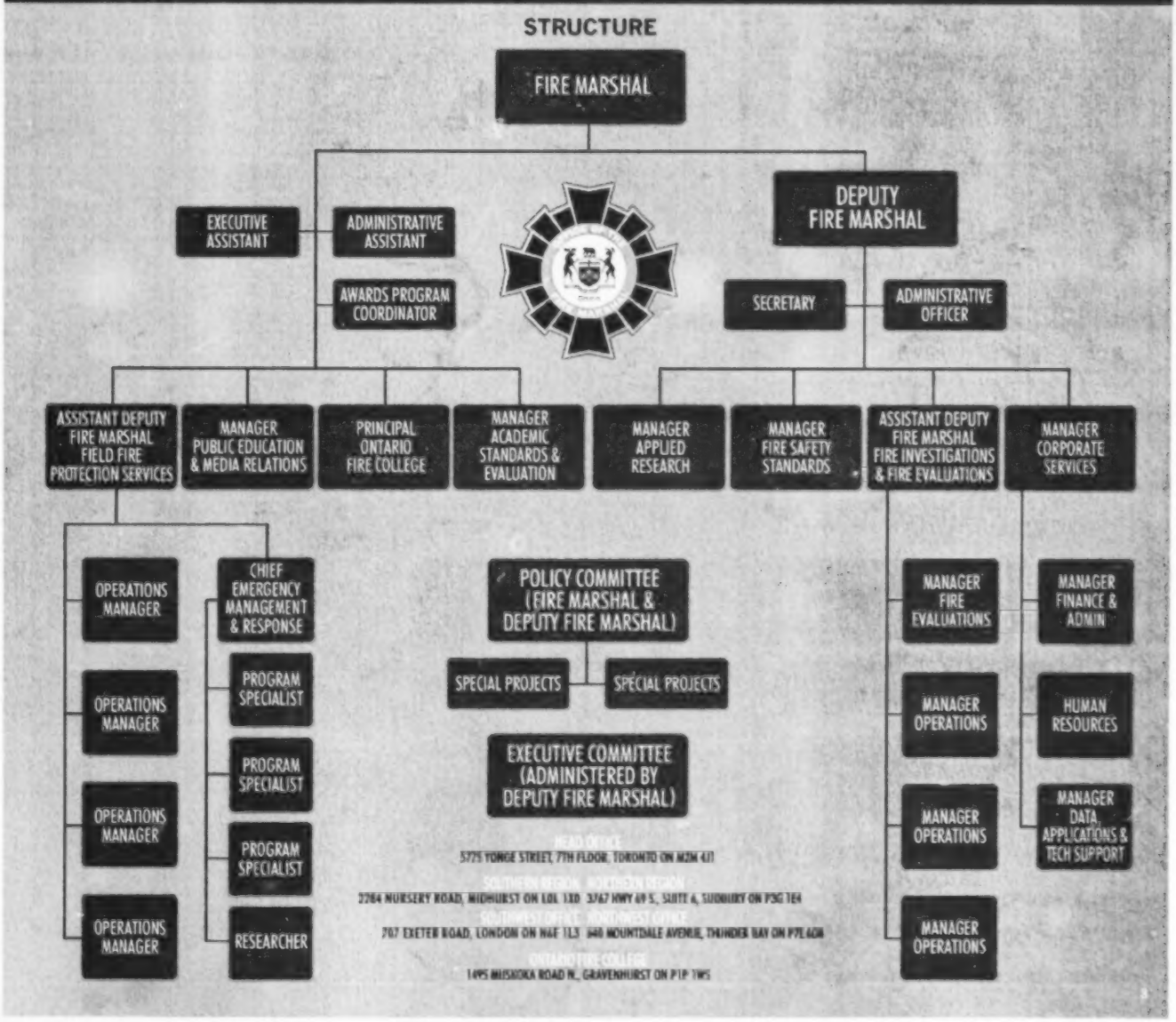


HEAD OFFICE
5775 YONGE STREET, 7TH FLOOR, TORONTO ON M2M 4J1

SOUTHERN REGION, NORTHERN REGION
2284 NURSERY ROAD, MIDHURST ON L0L 1X0 3767 HWY 69 S., SUITE 4, SUDBURY ON P3G 1E4

SOUTHWEST REGION, NORTHWEST REGION
707 EXETER ROAD, LONDON ON N6E 1L3 640 MOUNTDALE AVENUE, THUNDER BAY ON P7E 6G8

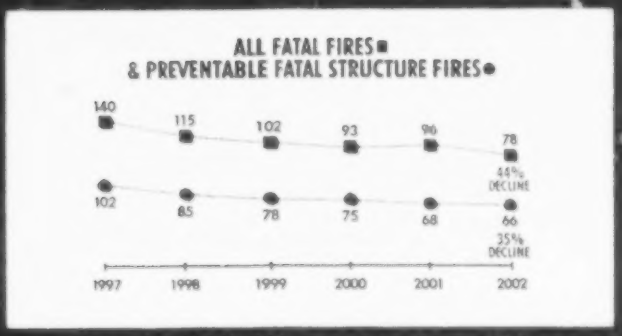
ONTARIO FIRE COLLEGE
1495 MUSKOKA ROAD N., GRAVENHURST ON P1P 1W5

ONTARIO FIRE STATISTICS: 1997-2002

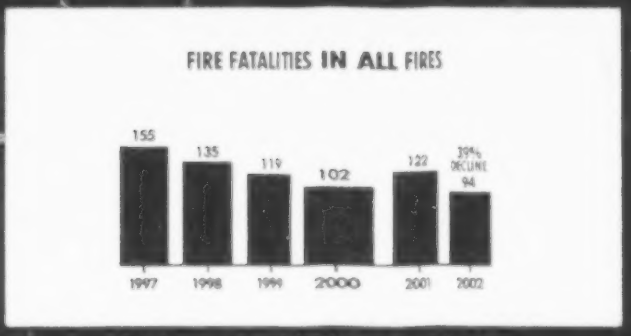
Fire losses are on the decline in Ontario. The most important decrease is in the number of people who are dying in fires. In 2002, there were 94 fire fatalities, including suicides and homicides. The fire death rate was 7.8 fire deaths per million population, a record low in the history of Ontario.

The Fire Protection and Prevention Act (FPPA), which mandated fire protection, fire prevention, and public education, came into effect in 1997. By 2002, preventable fires had declined.

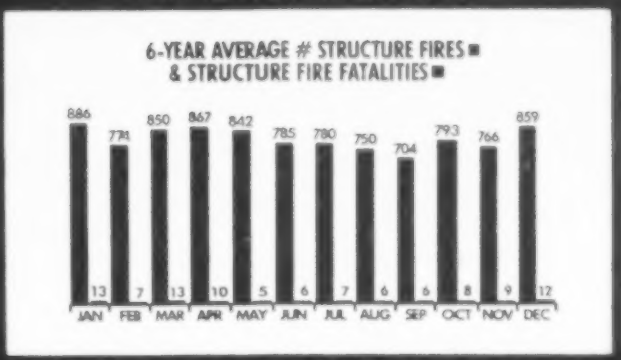
Preventable means fires that were not deliberately set. **All** means fires in both preventable and arson fires, including homicides and suicides. All statistics are for the period 1997–2002. 2002 data is subject to change.



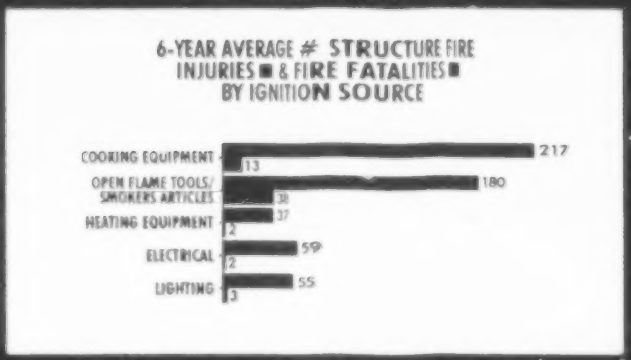
The number of all fatal fires as well as all preventable fatal structure fires continues to decline.



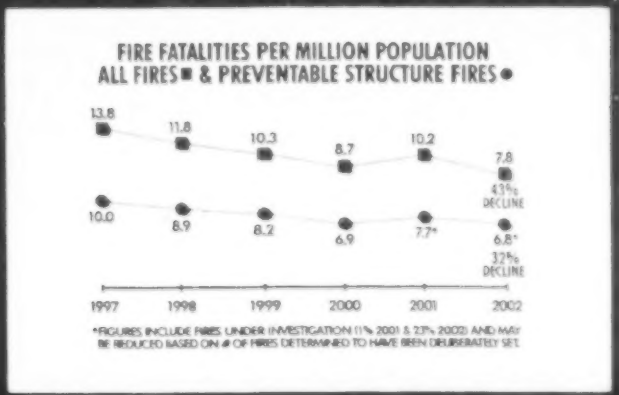
Ontario experienced the lowest number of fire fatalities in 2002.



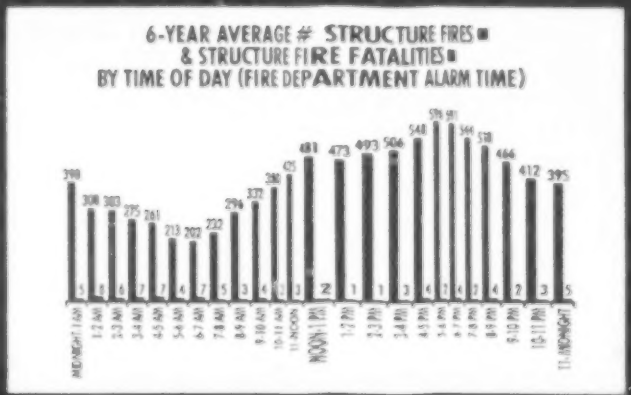
More structure fires and structure fire fatalities occurred in January than in any other month.



Smokers articles (cigarettes, lighters, matches) ranks as the highest cause of fire fatalities

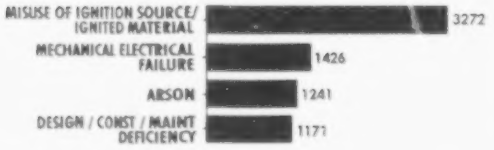


The fire death rate continues to decline. By the end of 2002, the fire death rate declined by nearly half what it was in 1997, and the preventable structure fire death rate also declined dramatically.



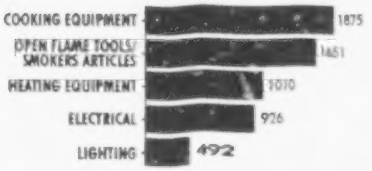
During this six-year period, the greatest number of fire fatalities occurred overnight while the greatest number of fires occurred during the supper hours.

6-YEAR AVERAGE # STRUCTURE FIRES BY CAUSE



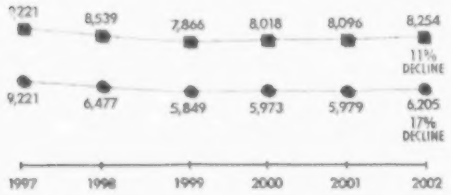
Misuse of ignition sources continues to be the #1 cause of structure fires in Ontario.

6-YEAR AVERAGE # STRUCTURE FIRES BY IGNITION SOURCE



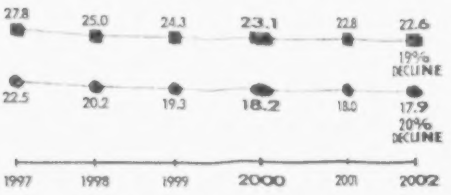
Cooking equipment remains the top ignition source of structure fires.

PREVENTABLE STRUCTURE FIRES WITH LOSS STRUCTURES ■ & RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURES ●



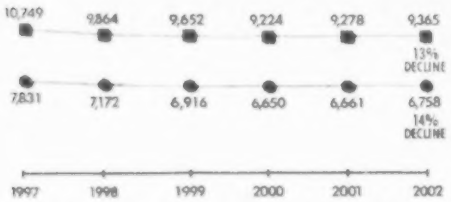
The actual number of preventable structure fires has declined from 1997 to 2002.

PREVENTABLE STRUCTURE FIRES WITH LOSS RATES PER 10,000 STRUCTURES STRUCTURES ■ & RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURES ●



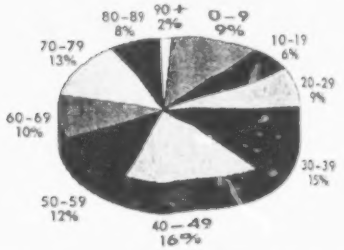
The rate of preventable structure fires is declining even though the building stock has increased.

STRUCTURE FIRES WITH LOSS ALL STRUCTURES ■ & RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURES ●



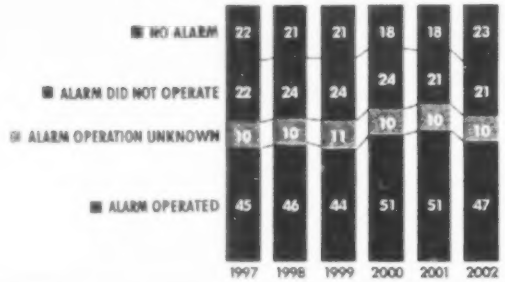
All structure and residential structure fires have declined from 1997 to 2002.

RESIDENTIAL FIRE DEATHS BY AGE OF VICTIM



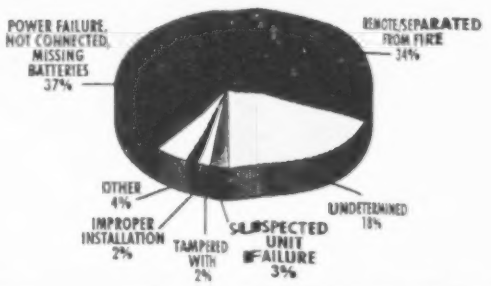
Of all residential fire fatalities, 31% were of the ages 30 through 49. Adults 60 years of age and older (a high-risk group) accounted for 33%.

RESIDENTIAL SMOKE ALARM OPERATION AS % OF RESIDENTIAL FIRES



Smoke alarms save lives only if they are maintained in working order. In 44% of the residential fires that occurred in 2002, either there were no smoke alarms or they did not operate.

RESIDENTIAL SMOKE ALARM FAILURE TO OPERATE BY REASON



Smoke alarms did not operate in 21% of the residential fires where they were installed. Why not? Most often (37% of the time) the reason was lack of power because of power failure, no connection to a power source, or missing batteries.

PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

FIRE INVESTIGATIONS & FIRE EVALUATIONS

The Fire Investigations & Fire Evaluations section has the primary responsibility of investigating any fire, in which there is provincial interest, in accordance with the duty outlined in Clause 9(2)(a) of the Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997 (FPPA). The authority to enter a fire scene and the powers upon entry are contained in Section 14 of the FPPA. In addition to the cause and origin of the fire, the section reports on all factors that contributed to the outcome.

Local municipal fire and police departments notify the OFM of any occurrences that meet the criteria. Once the preliminary information is received by the OFM, an assessment is made on whether it fits the criteria for OFM investigation, the urgency of response that is required, and to what level the investigation is to be conducted.

The levels of investigations are identified as Phase 1, Phase 2, and Phase 3. Investigations that are at a Phase 2 or a Phase 3 level receive a more comprehensive fire evaluation of all factors affecting the outcome, beyond just the origin and cause of the fire.

The OFM is mandated to investigate fires and provide expert testimony in court. During the 2002/03 fiscal year investigation staff expended a total of 179 days preparing for and 109 days giving testimony in criminal and civil court. OFM staff were also involved in preparing for and providing testimony at two Coroner Inquests. The inquests were held in Sudbury and in St. Thomas. Both were major inquests and resulted in a number of recommendations to improve fire and life safety.

FIRE INVESTIGATORS RESPOND TO FIRE AND EXPLOSION OCCURRENCES ANYWHERE IN THE PROVINCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

ALL FATAL FIRES OR CRITICAL INJURY INCIDENTS
24-hour response

EXPLOSIONS
24-hour response

SUSPECTED INCENDIARY FIRES
Monday through Sunday during normal working hours, 0830 hours–1700 hours

LARGE LOSS FIRES
$500,000 and over
0830 hours–1700 hours

FIRES OF UNUSUAL ORIGIN OR CIRCUMSTANCE
Unusual fire/smoke spread or involves circumstances that may result in widespread public concern, e.g., environmental hazard
0830 hours–1700 hours

MULTI-UNIT RESIDENTIAL OCCUPANCIES
Where fire spread is beyond unit of origin
0830 hours–1700 hours

2002/03 FISCAL YEAR FIRE INVESTIGATIONS
630 Regular Phase 1 Fire Investigations

2002/03 FISCAL YEAR FIRE EVALUATIONS
8 Incidents declared Phase 2
3 Incidents declared Phase 3

FIRE SAFETY STANDARDS

Fire Safety Standards administers the Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997, and the Ontario Fire Code. Specifically, staff provide advice and assistance to fire services and the public on Fire Code compliance and enforcement; administer the appeals and applications made under the authority of the FPPA; assist the Fire Marshal in fulfilling duties under the FPPA such as approval of building closures due to unsafe conditions; assess immediate fire and life safety threats; participate in the development of fire safety regulations/legislation and provide expert technical advice on fire safety matters to government; and develop inspection standards and guidelines related to interpretation and enforcement.

The following chart captures the level of activity for the section in 2002/03.

FIRE SAFETY STANDARDS ACTIVITIES

PLAN APPROVALS
125 Schools
173 Institutions

APPEALS
8 Carried from Previous Year
35 Received
32 Processed

TELEPHONE INQUIRIES
4,266 Calls Processed

HAZARDOUS INQUIRIES (ORDERS TO CLOSE)
12 Processed

PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

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12 Processed

APPLIED RESEARCH

Applied Research staff:

- Investigated fires that impacted the community and the environment. One such fire occurred at a recycling operation involving aerosol containers. Another fire occurred at a Styrofoam container manufacturing operation.
- Posted 24 fire safety recalls/warnings on the OFM Web site that are relevant to Ontario and worked with Health Canada's Product Safety Branch regarding several issues (e.g., toy lighters, candles).
- Under the Lightning Rods Act, carried out 315 inspections of new installations of lightning rod systems throughout Ontario.
- Completed the development work on the new emergency management Web site including the posting of a guide and 10 sample emergency procedures for high-rise and high-risk buildings. Also reviewed the risk assessment guidelines under development by Emergency Management Ontario.
- Provided technical assistance on fire safety issues to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission for nuclear power plants located in Ontario.
- Assisted other agencies in reviewing proposed changes that may impact fire safety (e.g., Health Canada's fire safe cigarettes, Ministry of the Environment's proposed ban on Halon fire extinguishers, Technical Standards & Safety Authority's requirements for handling fuels such as gasoline, natural gas and propane).

MONITORING POLICY

Monitoring the delivery of fire protection services is a key function of the Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM). The delivery of fire protection services, including fire safety education and fire prevention, is a municipal responsibility under the Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997 (FPPA). The FPPA grants the Fire Marshal discretionary authority to monitor and review these municipal fire services to determine whether they are being delivered in accordance with the Act and to assess whether a serious threat to public safety may exist in the municipality. The Fire Marshal has the power also to advise municipalities on the effective and efficient delivery of services and recommend actions to resolve any identified serious threats. To ensure that it is exercising due diligence both in administering its monitoring responsibilities and in protecting the provincial interest in public safety, the OFM developed a policy that applies to all of its monitoring activities in Ontario. As a result of the OFM monitoring process, significant improvements have been made to emergency response services, and serious threats to public safety have been averted.

In order to maintain a sound understanding of Ontario's fire protection system and monitor the delivery of fire protection services, the OFM surveys municipal fire departments. Using the Municipal Fire Protection Information Survey (MFPIS), the OFM collects and collates detailed data such as number and type of fire department personnel, equipment, fire safety education and fire prevention programs, and emergency services. OFM Fire Protection Advisers review the data and update fire department profiles annually. The OFM issues a certificate of compliance to each municipality that meets the public education and fire prevention requirements of the FPPA. The MFPIS is also a valuable tool that municipalities can use on their own to assess their services and address any service gaps that emerge.

From April 1, 2002 to March 31, 2003, the OFM initiated 50 Municipal Fire Protection Information Surveys. Forty-six municipalities were presented with a Certificate of Compliance, which indicated that they were meeting the public education and fire prevention requirements of the FPPA.

In conjunction with its monitoring activities, the OFM inspects a small number of hotels, motels, resorts, nursing homes, and other properties that are situated in areas without municipal organization.

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT AND BENCHMARKING PROJECT

The Performance Measurement and Benchmarking Project was initiated to develop a performance measurement and benchmarking framework for the fire service in Ontario. Once established, this framework will support the OFM, fire departments, and municipal decision-makers in achieving their goals for effective and efficient delivery of fire protection services. The project is being funded and facilitated by the OFM but is being implemented in partnership with the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs, municipalities, fire departments, and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. Input from stakeholders is important because the frameworks and processes that are being established must add value to fire service operations and be such that fire services are able to apply them in their local environments.

The current phase of the project, due to be completed in the fall of 2003, will deliver a tested fire service measurement and benchmarking framework and will also produce a number of meaningful performance measures. A key consideration is the recognition that the delivery of fire protection services varies widely across the province, so the project deliverables must be sufficiently flexible to allow fire departments to adapt them to their particular situations.

OBJECTIVE-BASED CODES

The OFM and the Building and Development Branch of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing co-hosted a Web-based public consultation on changes to the Ontario Fire and Building codes from February 12, 2003 to May 12, 2003. The invitation for stakeholders to test drive the proposed objective-based version of the Ontario Fire Code provided them with an opportunity to engage more directly in governmental decision-making and to shape the future direction of the code.

The consultation was modelled on the National Research Council Canada consultation with some variations to address unique Ontario issues.

The OFM also consulted on over 200 proposed technical changes to the Ontario Fire Code. Broad topics included inquest recommendations, new technology, significant compliance issues, and National Fire Code proposed changes (157 out of 221 were included, 51 appendix note revisions were not included for Ontario consultation).

Follow-up discussions are planned with stakeholders including an assessment of future training and educational needs.

To obtain additional information on the programs and activities mentioned in this publication, please visit the Office of the Fire Marshal Web site at http://www.ofm.gov.on.ca.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & COUNTERTERRORISM

HUSAR and CBRNR

In the spring of 2002, the Province of Ontario entered into an agreement and signed memorandums of understanding with the cities of Ottawa, Windsor, and Toronto to have their fire departments provide a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear response (CBRNR) anywhere in the province and to have Toronto Fire Services provide Heavy Urban Search and Rescue (HUSAR) capability.

The second annual CBRNR training and evaluation session for Ottawa, Windsor, and Toronto took place in May 2003 at the Ontario Fire College. The OPP Provincial Emergency Response Team was also present.

Toronto Fire Services has provided training to their staff and is in the process of selecting members for its HUSAR team. It has also entered into an agreement with Toronto Police Services for specialized dogs to support team activities. Basic light urban search and rescue services are available, and their development will continue over the years.

Negotiations are currently underway with 10 municipalities to establish operational-level CBRNR teams in these municipalities. Operational teams have been established in Peterborough, Cornwall, North Bay, Thunder Bay, and Sault Ste. Marie. These teams would be called out to situations that exceed the capabilities of the local fire department, and after an emergency has been declared. The operational level teams would also be available to support the CBRNR teams from Toronto, Windsor, and Ottawa.

OFM Staffing

The OFM established an Emergency Management and Response Unit within Field Fire Protection Services. A chief of Emergency Management and Response and three program specialists were hired. The program specialists have backgrounds in hazardous materials response. They will provide support to the fire departments involved in CBRNR and teach courses relating to hazardous materials at the Ontario Fire College. A researcher has also been hired to provide support to the unit.

Training

Two self-study courses, one on terrorism awareness for first responders and one on hazardous materials, were developed, distributed on CD-ROM, and posted on the OFM Web site. From April 1, 2002 to March 31, 2003, 2838 members of the fire service as well as 689 other persons registered for these courses.

Interagency training is being developed. An interagency first responder workshop developed for fire, police, and emergency medical services was piloted in March 2003.

New OFM Response Vehicles

The OFM has purchased two vans to support operations. One of these vehicles is equipped with satellite feed allowing electronic information to be received from an emergency scene and sent anywhere in Ontario. The other van has other equipment that can be used to support first responders at an emergency scene.

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ONTARIO FIRE COLLEGE

Centre of Excellence

Design work was completed for the creation of the Centre of Excellence for interagency training of response personnel. The construction contract was tendered, and construction will begin in late May 2003. The project features the building of a multi-bay fire hall with classroom and communication teaching centre, a library/resource centre, and an auditorium for seminars and workshops for large, interagency groups. Completion is scheduled for 2004.

Enrolment

From April 1, 2002 to March 31, 2003, 3180 students attended Ontario Fire College (OFC) courses on campus and 1517 students attended OFC courses off-campus.

New Programs

Diplomas were awarded to the first graduates of both the Company Officer and Fire Prevention Officer Diploma programs. Earning a diploma in either of these programs represents the successful completion of the academic component of certification.

Off-campus delivery of OFC courses is being enhanced through a revitalized Associate Instructor initiative, which allows departments to have their staff designated as Associate OFC Instructors capable of delivering courses locally. Individual departments and regional partnerships are taking advantage of this opportunity.

Courses have been offered to over 500 students throughout northern Ontario via the OFC northern campus, and several courses have been offered locally by OFC instructors to departments in southern Ontario.

The OFC participated in an e-learning pilot with other Ontario government learning institutions with a view to making some of its course offerings available to students online.

CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS

The Firefighter Certification Program started on May 1, 1998. As of May 2003, 893 career firefighters and 314 firefighters have met the requirements for certification.

The Certification Program for Existing Fire Prevention Officers started on April 1, 2001. The implementation for certification of fire prevention officers hired after March 30, 2001 began on April 1, 2003. The Company Officer Certification Program was launched on May 1, 2003.

Certification is a voluntary process for individuals. It is based on a candidate's ability to meet established educational/training qualifications, provide proof of current employment in a municipal fire department in Ontario, meet job experience requirements, and demonstrate competency to the current standards. Once deemed to have met the requirements for certification, candidates are awarded certification by the Ontario Fire Marshal.

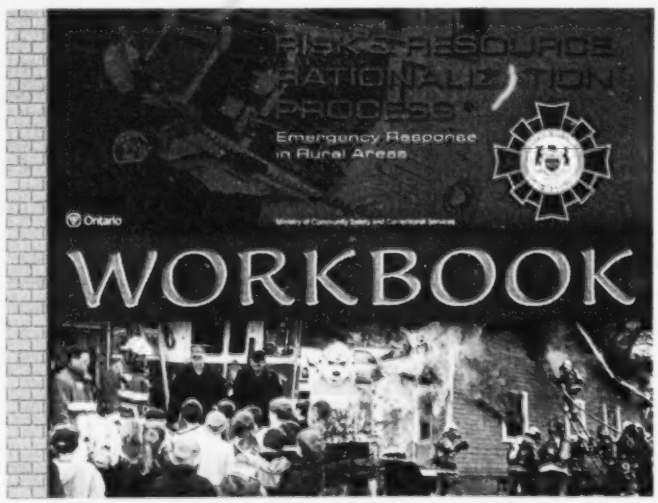
1000TH FIREFIGHTER CERTIFIED: CHRISTINA HICKEY, BRAMPTON FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES

RISK & RESOURCE RATIONALIZATION PROCESS WORKBOOK & PUBLIC FIRE SAFETY GUIDELINE

The OFM Public Fire Safety Guideline for staffing states that an attack team of 10 firefighters should be at the scene and assembled within 10 minutes of receiving an emergency call (90% of the time). This guideline applies to interior attack or rescue for single-family dwellings.

Several small and rural fire departments and municipalities expressed to the OFM a number of issues and concerns regarding this guideline. In August 2002, the Fire Marshal committed to developing a guideline for use in rural communities. The draft guideline was completed in May 2003 and will be finalized after having been piloted in four rural communities. The new guideline for rural communities does not include a response time component.

The OFM is also planning to review the existing staffing guidelines for urban centres, using a process similar to the one that was used to develop the new guideline for rural communities.



FIRE PREVENTION & PUBLIC EDUCATION

Fire Prevention Week

Team Up for Fire Safety was the theme for Fire Prevention Week, held in October. The Office of the Fire Marshal and the Fire Marshal's Public Fire Safety Council teamed up with a number of partners to help deliver a message of fire safety. The campaign touched on three simple safety lessons: correct installation of smoke alarms, developing and practicing a home escape plan, and eliminating fire hazards around the home.

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK 2002: TEAM UP FOR FIRE SAFETY
THE FIRE MARSHAL'S PUBLIC FIRE SAFETY COUNCIL AND SEVERAL PARTNERS TEAMED UP TO HELP SPREAD FIRE SAFETY MESSAGES THROUGHOUT ONTARIO

Remember December

In December 2002, the Office of the Fire Marshal and the Toronto Fire Services launched a media campaign and a joint news conference to increase fire safety awareness during the holiday season. This Remember December campaign helped to increase fire safety awareness among the citizens of Ontario along with public education initiatives and fire prevention programs.

New Fire Safety Video "No Time to Spare"

The OFM and the SMARTRISK Foundation teamed up to produce a 10-minute video based on the recreation of a fatal fire that killed a five-year-old boy. The rate at which the fire spread was astounding, with flashover occurring within three minutes. The video focuses on fire prevention, detection, and escape, and emphasizes the need for every household to take responsibility for its own fire safety. The video will be ready for distribution in June 2003. It will also be available at the OFM Audio-Visual Resource Centre in VHS and DVD formats.

Ontario Fire Service Messenger

The Office of the Fire Marshal's Ontario Fire Service Messenger magazine celebrated its 10-year anniversary in 2002. Since its inaugural May/June 1992 issue, the magazine has offered a steady stream of public education material and feature articles on fire prevention. The publication is one way that the OFM distributes training and educational material to individual fire departments. The Ontario Fire Service Messenger is available online at www.ofm.gov.on.ca.

FIRE MARSHAL'S PUBLIC FIRE SAFETY COUNCIL

New Strategic Plan

The Fire Marshal's Public Fire Safety Council (FMPFSC) has approved a strategic plan for the next five years and has adopted a new vision: "A world where no one is hurt by fire." To accomplish its newly defined mission "To actively pursue ways to change fire prevention attitudes and behaviours so fires that put people at risk don't start," the FMPFSC will focus on five strategic building blocks: shifting society's attitudes from 'accident and empathy' to personal responsibility/ownership of problem; focusing on kids to develop fire prevention behaviour and attitudes; shifting the internal fire service mindset to a prevention focus; using technology to prevent fires; and addressing specific high-risk groups.

Risk Watch®

The FMPFSC, in partnership with the National Fire and Life Safety Foundation and the Alberta Fire Commissioner's Office, has contracted SMARTRISK to Canadianize the Risk Watch program and to transcreate it in French.

FIREFIGHTER MEMORIAL AT QUEEN'S PARK

In 2002, the Ontario government made a commitment to build a provincial firefighter memorial on the grounds of Queen's Park to honour firefighters who died in the line of duty. The construction of the memorial and the creation of the Ontario Fire Fighter Memorial Foundation were announced at a ceremony that took place in October 2002.

The foundation, a not-for-profit organization, was established in March 2003. Its duties include the supervision of the construction, design, and installation of the memorial as well as its ongoing administration and maintenance. The foundation received a grant of $460,000 from the Province in March 2003. Construction of the memorial is to begin in the fall of 2003 and is to be completed in 2004.

OFM STAFF AND ONTARIO FIREFIGHTER MEMORIAL FOUNDATION MEMBERS WITH A MODEL OF THE MEMORIAL

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IN OCTOBER 2002, THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT HOSTED THE FESTIVAL OF ONTARIO IN CELEBRATION OF THE QUEEN'S JUBILEE. THE OFFICE OF THE FIRE MARSHAL ORGANIZED A DISPLAY THAT SHOWCASED THE ROLE OF THE FIRE SERVICE IN ONTARIO DURING THE QUEEN'S REIGN.

REMEMBERING FIREFIGHTERS WHO FELL IN THE AFTERMATH OF SEPTEMBER 11 IN A MEMORIAL SERVICE AT THE ONTARIO FIRE COLLEGE